It is Government's endeavour that posts of HOMs are not kept vacant for unduly long periods. Though 11 of the vacancies have arisen only in the last 3 months, Heads of Mission have already been appointed for the following 10 countries: Afghanistan, Brazil, Cyprus, Cuba, Finland, Mauritius, Nigeria, Peru, Uzbekistan and Yemen. Seven of the HOMs will be in position by end of December, 1992; one in January 1993; one in February 1993 and one in June 1993.

For two of the remaining 5 vacancies, approval of the receiving Government is awaited for the proposed nominations and for the other 3, the process of filling up the posts is underway.

Violation of Companies Act, by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam

*52. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH :

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam violated the provisions of the Companies Act on Bond Issue; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Auditors in their Report annexed to the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account of M/s. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), for the year ended 31st March, 1991, *inter-alia*, reported that "The Company has paid Rs. 14,57,25,000 as brokerage/commission (front end fees) to nationalised banks and their subsidiaries on private placement of bonds. According to the legal opinion obtained by the company the provisions of Section 76 of the Companies Act are not applicable to the Bonds issued by them".

Extradition of Prabhakaran to India

*53. DR. ABRAR AHMED :
SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far on the issue of extradition of Prabhakaran to India;

(b) whether the matter was taken up with the Sri Lankan President during his recent visit to India;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (d) The matter of making a formal request for extradition remains under the consideration of the Government. The matter was not taken up with the President of Sri Lanka during his recent visit to India, as the official positions of the Governments of the two countries are well known.

Increase in the cost of production of Chemical Fertilizers

*54. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV :

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that cost of per unit production of Urea, Super phosphate and Muriate of Potash has gone up during the last two years due to the increase in the prices of gas, naphtha and other raw materials required for the production;

(b) whether Government have allowed Tata and Birla industrial houses to sell Urea at the higher prices from their newly set-up projects; and

(c) what measures Government propose to adopt to reduce the cost of fertilizers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) The per unit cost of production of locally produced fertilizers such as urea and Single Superphosphate increased during the last two years due to increase in input costs. Muriate of Potash is not produced in the country.

(b) No, Sir. The new projects referred to have not gone into production. In any event, the price of urea is controlled at present and the sale price to farmers cannot exceed the statutory price prescribed by the Government.

(c) Government have, in the recent past, taken steps to reduce the cost of production of fertilizers, including abolition of customs duty on import of capital goods for setting up new plants and for renovation of old plants, abolition of customs duty on imported phosphoric acid, availability of foreign exchange at official rate for import of raw materials/intermediates for manufacture of DAP and complex fertilizers, etc. Government's policy is to improve efficiency and minimise costs in indigenous industry.

आतंकवाद को रोकने हेतु पाकिस्तान के साथ बातचीत किया जाना

*55. **श्री राम सिंह राठवा** : क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने आतंकवादी और तोड़-फोड़ की गतिविधियों को रोकने हेतु पाकिस्तान के साथ कोई बातचीत की है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है ।

(ग) सरकार ने इस संबंध में अब तक क्या कदम उठाए हैं; और

(घ) इस संबंध में अगस्त, 1992 में पाकिस्तान के विदेश मंत्री के साथ हुई बातचीत का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एडुआर्डो फलेरियो) : (क) से (ग) सरकार ने अनेक अवसरों तथा विभिन्न स्तरों पर पाकिस्तान से जम्मू और कश्मीर तथा पंजाब में भारत के विरुद्ध चलाई जा रही आतंकवादी और विध्वंसक गतिविधियों को अपना समर्थन बंद करने का अनुरोध किया है ।

सरकार ऐसी सभी गतिविधियों पर निरन्तर नजर रखती है जिनका भारत की सुरक्षा वातावरण पर असर पड़ सकता हो और भारत की सुरक्षा की हिफाजत के लिए आवश्यक उपाय करती है ।

पंजाब तथा जम्मू और कश्मीर में तोड़-फोड़ और आतंकवाद को पाकिस्तान का समर्थन मिलने की अंतर्राष्ट्रीय समुदाय को जानकारी दी गई है । भारत की स्थिति को काफी हद तक समझा गया है ।

(घ) अगस्त, 1992 में पाकिस्तान के विदेश मंत्री के साथ कोई बैठक नहीं हुई ।

Disinvestment of Shares of Public Sector Undertakings

*56. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the amount earned through disinvestment of shares of Public Sector Undertakings and utilised for revenue expenditure during the last three years, Undertaking-wise;

(b) whether the practice has helped in improving the performance of the Public Sector Undertakings; and

(c) what steps are being taken to improve the operational and financial autonomy of the Public Sector Undertakings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES) (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) :

(a) The amount, earned by disinvestment of shares of public sector undertakings in 1991-92 is Rs. 3038 crores; in 1992-93,